

Application No. 09/743,649

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REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 are pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Custers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,063,547) in view of Best (U.S. Patent No. 4,569,026). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present claimed invention recites a method and apparatus for controlling a system for processing stored information on a storage medium. The system plays back stored information during a play mode of operation and provides the user an opportunity to select a bookmark representing a corresponding location within the stored information from among a plurality of bookmarks responsive to the user's input during play mode. The system plays back the stored information from the location corresponding to the selected bookmark during the play mode of operation. The system generates an on-screen menu displaying the maximum number of the plurality of bookmarks available and the actually available ones of the plurality of bookmarks associated with the storage medium. It allows the user to set a new bookmark; select a bookmark and clear the selected bookmark; select the bookmark and play back the stored information from the location corresponding to the selected bookmark; and undo a previously performed operation. In response to a user selecting a bookmark, the playback circuitry retrieves information from the storage medium starting at the location corresponding to the selected one of a plurality of bookmarks during the play mode of operation. This eliminates the need to press fast-forward to scroll to the user's desired point in the video.

Custers et al. discloses a Compact-Disc Digital Audio player in which different users, independently of one another, can store preferred selections of specific discs in a memory. The player identifies the discs from the sub-code on the disc. The user identification can be entered in the player. The user identification and the record carrier

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identification are combined to form one identification code. The player also detects whether a preferred selection program is stored in the memory associated with the identification code. If an identification code is stored, the player reproduces the relevant information from the disc in the sequence specified by the preferred-selection program.

The Examiner contends that Custers et al. disclose a method and apparatus of controlling a system for processing stored information on a storage medium similarly to the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. Although Custers et al. disclose a Compact-Disc Digital Audio player that can store a preferred selection of specific discs in a memory, Custers et al. neither disclose nor suggest "providing to a user, during play mode of operation, an opportunity to select a bookmark, representing a corresponding location within the stored information, from among a plurality of bookmarks responsive to user input" as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the present invention. In column 6, lines 20-29, Custers et al. detail starting the program by putting on a disc, and subsequently, a number of parameters are initialized in block 15, such as the parameters which indicated the address in the preferred-selection memory 6 and F, which is a flag used in the program. Thus, the opportunity to select a bookmark is not provided during play mode of operation, as in the present claimed invention. Additionally, the present claimed invention is concerned with setting bookmarks such that a viewer can return to a location within the stored information of the video previously selected as a bookmark by the user while Custers et al. is concerned with "setting the control means in such a way that parts of the information are read in the sequence defined by the selected preferred-selection program" as described in column 1, lines 27-30. Custers et al., describes a system that organizes a playlist of programs to be played in sequence. This is unlike the present claimed invention in which a user is able "to select a bookmark representing a corresponding location within the stored information" and "play[ing] back the stored information from the location corresponding to the selected bookmark" thus allowing for a specific location in a video that can be retrieved during play mode of operation.

Best describes a video entertainment system by which human viewers conduct simulated voice conversation with screen actors or cartoon characters in a branching story

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game shown on a television screen. Different audio and video frames are generated from a videodisc and data memory to provide one of several alternative replies or alternative actions at each branch point in the game, depending on what the viewer says to a speech recognition unit. Best, similarly to Custers et al., also neither discloses or suggests "providing to a user, during play mode of operation, an opportunity to select a bookmark, representing a corresponding location within the stored information, from among a plurality of bookmarks responsive to user input" as recited in claim 1 of the present. Best allows the user to interact with the video entertainment system via voice commands. Branch points in the game are represented by special story commands which can point to several subsequent chains of story commands. These chains of commands, however, do not allow the user to "set a new bookmark", nor do they allow the user the ability to "select a bookmark and clearing the selected book mark" as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the present invention. The prompted commands are predetermined by the game system, not the user.

Additionally, there is no motivation or reason to combine Custers et al. and Best. The objective of Best is to provide an interactive video entertainment system that responds to voice commands to play the appropriate programs in response to the commands. Custers et al., on the other hand, provides an apparatus that reads information in a sequence predetermined by a user. Combining an apparatus for automatically reproducing user-defined preferred selections with a video game entertainment system that responds to voice commands still does not produce an apparatus for "providing to a user, during play mode of operation, an opportunity to select a bookmark, representing a corresponding location within the stored information, from among a plurality of bookmarks responsive to user input" as recited in claim 1 of the present.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Custers et al. and Best, when taken alone or in combination, provide no 35 USC § 112 compliant enabling disclosure showing the above discussed features. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Custers et al. and Best, when taken alone or in combination, do not make the present invention as recited in Claims 1 and 11 unpatentable.

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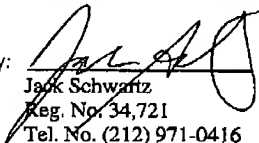
As Claims 2-10 are dependant on Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for the same reasons discussed above. It is thus respectfully submitted that these rejections are satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 50-2828.

Respectfully submitted,
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